

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, TW, CH, RP

SUBJECT:ROC AMBASSADOR'S OCTOBER 9 CALL ON THE ACTING
SECRETARY

REF: TAIPEI 6220 (NOTAL)

1. IN LIEU OF HIS REQUESTED MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF CHINA (ROC) AMBASSADOR JAMES C. H. SHEN, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER-COUNSELOR HENRY CHEN, CALLED OCTOBER 9 ON THE ACTING SECRETARY. THE PRIMARY REASON FOR SHEN'S CALL WAS TO DELIVER A SEALED LETTER FROM ROC PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO TO PRESIDENT FORD. IN A BRIEF DESCRIPTION, SHEN SAID THE LETTER WISHED THE PRESIDENT WELL AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE ROC OF THE US DEFENSE TREATY. IN PASSING, SHEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF OPENNESS WOULD ALSO EXTEND TO AM0ASSADORS; THE ACTING SECRETARY, AGREEING TO TRANSMIT THE LETTER.

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2. SHEN EXPRESSED, ON BEHALF OF THE ROC, APPRECIATION OF

US SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED ROC PARTICIPATION IN THE IMF AND IBRD, NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THAT A CHALLENGE TO THEIR PARTICIPATION HAD NOT ARISEN AT LAST WEEK'S ANNUAL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. THE ACTING SECRETARY AGREED THAT WE, TOO, WERE PLEASED THE ISSUE HAD NOT BEEN RAISED.

3. MENTIONING A CONCERN OF ROC FINANCE MINISTER K.T. LI, SHEN SAID THAT CONTINENTAL OIL WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING OPIC INSURANCE ON ITS RIGS IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT OFF KAOHSIUNG. OPIC, SHEN STATED, BELIEVED THE WATERS IN QUESTION WERE DISPUTED, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE IN FACT CLEARLY UNDER EFFECTIVE ROC CONTROL. EXPRESSING HIS SURPRISE THAT OPIC HAD NOT CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THIS MATTER, THE ACTING SECRETARY PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT.

4. NOTING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES' (GOP) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD RECENTLY APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC), SHEN STATED THE GOP PLANNED CONSULTATIONS SOON WITH THE US AND OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS. HE URGED THAT THE US TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT TO SLOW OR STOP PHILIPPINE STEPS TOWARD DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF PEKING. THE GOP IS MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION, SHEN SAID, BECAUSE IT BELIEVES THE US IS WITHDRAWING FROM ASIA AND BECAUSE THE US ITSELF WILL RECOGNIZE THE PRC.

5. THE ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED THAT, AS FOR THE US STANCE IN ASIA, WE MAKE KNOWN OUR PLANS AND INTENTIONS TO THE GOP ON A REGULAR BASIS. COMMENTING SPECIFICALLY ON SHEN'S REQUEST FOR US INTERCESSION WITH THE GOP, THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT, AS HE HAD TOLD SHEN LAST MAY (STATE 107922), WE WOULD NOT SEEK TO INTERFERE IN THE DECISIONS OF A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT AND THUS COULD NOT GO BEYOND A STATEMENT OF OUR OWN POSITION ON CHINA, WHICH HAD BEEN MADE.

6. ADMITTING THAT EVENTUAL PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION OF THE PRC IS PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE, SHEN SAID THAT FIRM US INTERCESSION AT THIS POINT WOULD SLOW PHILIPPINE MOVE-
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MENT TOWARD PEKING IN VIEW OF THE "SPECIAL" US-GOP RELATIONSHIP. HE URGED REPEATEDLY THAT THE US, IF NOTHING MORE WERE POSSIBLE, RESTATE AGAIN ITS POSITION TO THE GOP. THE ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY TO REITERATE A US POSITION IS NORMALLY UP TO THE AMBASSADOR ON THE SCENE. IN RESPONSE TO SHEN'S FURTHER URGING, THE ACTING SECRETARY AGREED ONLY TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE RESTATE-

MENT OF US POLICY WITH EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB
AND THE PHILIPPINE DESK. HE MADE IT CLEAR THERE
WAS NO ASSURANCE WE WOULD DO SO.

7. SHEN ADDED THAT ONE OF THE ROC'S SPECIAL CONCERNS
WAS HOW TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH THE CHINESE POPULATION

RESIDENT IN THE PHILIPPINES IF THE GOP RECOGNIZED
PEKING. CITING THE ROC-JAPAN EXAMPLE, THE ACTING
SECRETARY SAID THIS COULD PROBABLY BE DONE THROUGH
NON-DIPLOMATIC OFFICES IN TAIPEI AND MANILA AND SUG-
GESTED THE ROC MIGHT WISH TO PREPARE FOR THIS TYPE OF
ARRANGEMENT.

8. ON DEPARTING, SHEN SAID THEY WERE PLEASED TO LEARN
THE ACTING SECRETARY WOULD ATTEND THEIR DOUBLE TEN
(NATIONAL DAY) CELEBRATION. THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID
HE LOOKED FORWARD TO IT BUT ALSO HAD SEVERAL OTHER
COMMITMENTS THAT EVENING.

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